

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7. Please add new Claims 15–18. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

**Claim Listing**

1. (Currently Amended) A network router to route Internet Protocol (IP) data packets comprising:
  - a plurality of trunk ports, including a composite port of plural ports to plural trunks which serve as a composite trunk to a common destination;
  - a routing fabric configured to transfer the IP data packets between trunk ports;
  - and
  - an output port selector configured to use a destination IP address of the IP data packets to select an output port for the IP packets from the composite port, the output port selector balancing load across the trunks of the composite trunk ~~according to by~~ dynamically ~~adjustable~~ weighting a number of entries to each route to the common destination ~~, the load approaching balance across the trunks.~~
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) A network router to route Internet Protocol (IP) data packets comprising:
  - a plurality of trunk ports, including a composite port of plural ports to plural trunks which serve as a composite trunk to a common destination;
  - a routing fabric configured to transfer the IP data packets between trunk ports;
  - and
  - an output port selector configured to use a destination IP address of the IP data packets to select an output port for the IP data packets from the composite port according to a table, ~~the table routes in the table~~ being dynamically ~~adjustable~~ rewritable for a load to approach balance across the trunks.

4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently Amended) A method of routing Internet Protocol (IP) data packets in a network router comprising:
  - identifying a destination of the IP data packets;
  - selecting one of plural trunks forming a composite trunk to the destination based on a destination IP address of the IP data packets, the trunk being selected ~~[[with]]~~ by dynamically adjustable weighting a number of entries to each route to the destination to balance load across the trunks of a composite trunk, the load approaching balance across the trunks; and
  - forwarding the IP data packets toward the destination on the selected trunk.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently Amended) A method of routing Internet Protocol (IP) data packets in a network router comprising:
  - identifying a destination of the IP data packets;
  - selecting one of plural trunks forming a composite trunk to the destination based on a destination IP address of the IP data packets, the trunk being selected according to a table, ~~the table~~ routes in the table being dynamically ~~adjustable~~ rewritable for a load to approach balance across the trunks; and
  - forwarding the IP data packets toward the destination on the selected trunk.
- 8–9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the IP data packets are routed under an Internet protocol.
- 11–14. (Canceled)

15. (New) A network router as claimed in Claim 1 wherein dynamically weighting the number of entries favors a shortest route to the destination.
16. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 5 wherein dynamically weighting the number of entries favors a shortest route to the destination
17. (New) A network router as claimed in Claim 3 wherein a first dynamically rewritable route in the table is configured to be rewritten with a second dynamically rewritable route in the table.
18. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 7 wherein a first dynamically rewritable route in the table is configured to be rewritten with a second dynamically rewritable route in the table.